

## Q & A – ISAT Fall 2008 Webex Training

Q. Is there a standard coding for the accommodation 2 field or is it just our own wording?

A. The Accommodation 2 field is a Y or N/blank field. You would code Y if the student uses an accommodation other than audio, paper, large print, or Braille.

Q. Can small schools still enter all of their data through the Student Editor?

A. Yes - you can still manually enter students through Student Editor if you'd prefer.

Q. How will students know during test taking that they can not go back to certain items?

A. A warning box pops up to let them know they can not return to certain items.

Q. Is there any way for schools to get the strand scores for students who took the audio test?

A. Percent correct is provided at each standard on the FINAL score report provided by DRC for the fall and spring administrations.

Q. Would you please review the "no deadline" for the SEF upload?

A. There is no deadline for uploading your SEF like there has been in the past. You just need to have your students entered into the system before you print tickets. In addition, you will want to make sure ALL of your student demographic data is correct in the system before the testing window closes on 10/24.

Q. If we have a senior taking one content area only, should we show him "exited" for other content areas?

A. It is not necessary, but you can if you'd prefer. We don't track participation for the Exit Exam Retest.

Q. Will grade 10 students be allowed to test in the winter?

A. No, 10th grade students will NOT be allowed to retest in the winter administration.

Q. What is the reasoning behind the 10th graders not getting to retest in the winter?

A. The retest opportunity for 10th grade offered in the fall is a short-term help for this year's entering 10th graders who have had a 2-year gap. We will reconsider for next year. The Board approved this option for this fall only.

Q. Where can the Test Security Agreement be found?

A. The Test Security Agreement is in the back of the TAM which is posted on the OSBE and ISAT websites. A stand-alone Test Security Agreement is also provided on the Documentation page of the ISAT website under Forms.

Q. Is there any requirement for the 2nd accommodation field on the SEF for the fall test?

A. You should only populate the Accommodation 2 field with a Y if a student uses an accommodation other than audio, paper, large print, or Braille. Examples are setting, administration and presentation, scheduling, response and AT. If a student doesn't use any of these accommodations, then you can leave that field blank.

Q. What is the purpose of the Accommodation 2 field? Does it show up somewhere in reporting?

A. The purpose is to capture that an accommodation other than paper, audio, large print, or Braille has been used on a test. These codes will be reported on the District/School Data Files and the State Files.

Q. Does the SEF automatically fill in the Accommodation 2 field now or do we need to do this manually?

A. If you have a student with an accommodation that falls into the Accommodation 2 category, you will need to put a Y in that field. If the student does not have an accommodation, then you just leave that field blank in the SEF.

Q. Is the 10th grade science ISAT only available during the spring administration?

A. Science is not yet a graduation requirement, so it is only available for the spring administration.

Q. Will 10th graders be required to take the Science ISAT this spring?

A. All 10th grade students will be REQUIRED to test in science in the spring test administration.

Q. Is the ISAT website ready to download new tests?

A. Tickets are ready to be printed once you have uploaded your student information. Tickets can not be used until the first day of the testing window.

Q. Are the cache server updates available?

A. There is no change from spring, so the test engine and LCS you used in the spring will be used in the fall.

Q. Can you explain the rules on how SPX1 and SPX2 are designated based on their SPED exit dates?

A. SPX1 is used the first year a student is exited from Special Ed and SPX2 is used the 2nd year a student is exited from Special Ed.

Q. Any special considerations if using Windows Vista?

A. No, the testing engine and LCS are supported on Vista. However, if this is the first time you are using Vista, you should set it up and take some Practice Tests ahead of time to be sure it is working.

Q. If a student has never taken ISAT, but exits during the year (before spring ISAT), is he SPED or SPX1 for the spring testing?

A. You would not code him as Special Ed at all since he has never taken an ISAT before.

Q. Do 11th and 12th graders have to be proficient in Science?

A. Science is NOT required for 11th and 12th graders this year. The students entering 9th grade (Graduating Class of 2013) will be required to pass science for an Idaho Graduation Requirement. All 10th graders are required to take the science test in the spring administration (NCLB requirement).

Q. For Language Usage Accommodations, may we read to the students this fall?

A. Yes, that is true for fall. Starting with spring, audio will be available for language usage.

Q. If a 10th grader tests this fall and is proficient and then takes the test again in the spring and is NOT proficient, can we go back and bank the fall scores? This would be if a student just meets proficient in the fall and we think they can score advanced in the spring and they do not, does the spring score have to count, or will the highest score count?

A. The State will use the highest score for students for graduation and NCLB.

Q. Do the 10th graders have to pass the science ISAT? And if so, can they take and bank it in the fall? Will they still be required to take it again in the spring?

A. Science is not offered this fall. 10th grade students are REQUIRED to take the science test this spring. NCLB requires that we test all (95% in science) but does not require science scores be included in AYP calculations. Science will NOT be offered this fall. Students graduating in 2013 and beyond will be required to pass science for graduation.

Q. If the Language Usage test is read to a student, would that be an Accommodation 2 for the Fall testing?

A. This is correct.

Q. Do students who pass in the Fall tests need to take science in the spring?

A. 10th grade students who pass reading, LU, and math this fall still need to take science in the spring. 11th and 12th graders do not take science in the spring.

Q. If we are using Alternative assessment for 10th graders, do we need to worry about any ISAT testing this fall for them?

A. Students who will be taking the Alternate Assessment this year should not take the fall ISAT administration.

Q. If tenth graders do not pass in the fall, will they be able to retest in the winter?

A. No 10th graders will be allowed to test in winter. The Fall option is a short-term provision for these incoming 10th graders who have not taken an ISAT for 2 years. The Board passed the motion to allow this fall option for 1 year. They will reconsider next year as we will have another class that will have a 2-year gap even if we begin work on the 9th grade ISAT this year.

Q. Is there a way to change demographics for one test (say reading) and have it cover all of the other tests?

A. The only student data that needs to be coded by subject are accommodations, adaptations, not tested/invalid codes, exited codes, alt assessment, and home school. The rest are all updated at a student level, meaning if you update it for reading, it will update for all subjects.

Q. Why aren't we testing science for 10th grade and banking it this fall?

A. Science is not offered for the Exit Exam Retest; therefore, it is not being offered this fall.

Q. If a 10th grade student is not proficient this fall, will that count against AYP and/or if the 10th grade student re-tests in the spring and is proficient will that be the score counted for AYP?

A. The State will use the highest score for students for graduation and AYP.

Q. What are the odds that the preliminary score will actually change before the final reports?

A. The odds are very low that a score would change, but we call them preliminary because we want you to be aware that the scores have not been fully verified until final reports are released.

Q. If a student is logged out due to inactivity or emergency, do they have to start the test completely over or can they resume where they left off?

A. If a student is logged out due to inactivity or emergency, they will start where they left off within one question.

Q. If the state uses ISAT data for collecting Alternate Assessment information, do they expect AA students for all grades this Fall?

A. If the Fall ISAT replaces the IRI or the DMA, DWA, you might need to administer it for SpEd and IDEA. We do not need to test AA students in the fall for NCLB.

Q. Is the last week of testing in May reserved for makeup testing only?

A. Yes, the last week of testing in May is for makeup testing only.

Q. Where are the math reference sheets located on the OSBE website?

A. <http://www.boardofed.idaho.gov/saa/formulas.asp>

Q. Will fall banked 10th grade students count in participation rates for AYP in the spring?

A. Yes. The State will capture the highest score from the 2 administrations for AYP(NCLB) and graduation (State) requirements. All 10th graders will take science in the spring (NCLB requirement).

Q. Will the exported files we send to DRC allow the Accommodation and Adaptations codes shown to be uploaded into the test database or will we have to manually enter this information in those fields?

A. You will be able to populate the Accommodation and Adaptation fields in the SEF and upload it. They don't need to be populated manually.

Q. If the State will capture the highest score from the 2 administrations for AYP (NCLB) and graduation (State) requirements, will we then need to test those students again in the Spring so there are 2 scores to choose from?

A. Districts have the option to test 1 time or 2 times. The state requires 1 score in science, math, reading and language usage to calculate AYP participation and achievement in math, reading and LU. We must have 1 score in science-- all 10th graders will take science in the spring for your participation calculation for NCLB. (No achievement for science is reported for 2009.)

Q. Are all 10th graders required to take all sections of the test in the spring, regardless of whether they banked their scores in the fall?

A. 10th grade students who achieve proficient or advanced scores on reading, math, or language usage in the fall are not required to test in the spring. However, ALL 10th graders are required to take science in the spring.

Q. Will the download be an excel file?

A. Yes, the SEF Download File is in Excel format.

Q. Will the download of last year's student info be in the new format?

A. Yes, the SEF download is in the new SEF format.

Q. In the past there have been problems with NEWLY added students appearing in the system and ticket availability. We then had to contact DRC and they did some sort of a push on their side. Has this been fixed for Fall?

A. Yes, this has been fixed for fall.

Q. Will there be more than one part per test this year in certain content areas?

A. There will be only one part for each content area for fall.

Q. Will there be specific items on this test that students cannot go back during their review and change?

A. Yes, there will be specific items on the math test that students can not go back to. A warning box will pop up letting the student know that they will not be able to return to those items once they go on.

Q. When will the final results (including the strands) be available?

A. The final Fall 2008 score reports will be available November 21.

Q. On the final reports will there be any statements to parents stating that the student needs to retest?

A. No, this is not included on the final reports.

Q. Will the preliminary reports be on the CAL site or the DRC site?

A. The Preliminary Reports will be on the CAL/ISAT site: [isat.caltesting.org](http://isat.caltesting.org).

Q. Will the individual strand scores be included in the final reports?

A. Percent correct by standard will be provided on the final reports.

Q. How will we be able to use the scores to assign PLATO strands or remediate curriculum?

A. You will need to contact PLATO directly or other districts to find out how to use PLATO with the fall scores.

Q. If a student that is an 11th grader and failed the Science test last Spring 2008 do they have to take the Science test in Spring 2009?

A. Students do not retest in science. The graduation requirement will kick in for the graduating class of 2013. For now, no retest is necessary.

Q. Which column do we use to record other accommodations apart from paper/pencil or audio?

A. You would put a Y in the accommodation 2 field for those students.

Q. That SEF download is only student information, correct? There are no scores entered on the SEF download that I could see.

A. The SEF Download only contains the student demographic information from the Student Editor.

Q. Are grade levels adjusted in the SEF download?

A. Grade levels are not adjusted in the SEF download.

Q. Are the Test Coordinator Updates only posted on the Board website or are those communicated by email or the state newsletter?

A. TC Updates are emailed to Test Coordinators and Superintendents, using the SDE contact lists. They are also archived on the OSBE-ISAT-TestCoordinator website.